

**REMARKS**

The Office Action of March 13, 2002 has been received and its contents carefully considered.

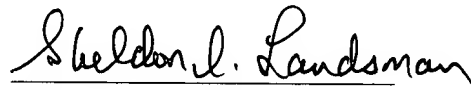
In response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action, applicants hereby elect the invention of Group I, claims 1 to 10 and 12 to 14, for prosecution in this application.

Applicants have amended claims 12 and 13 to correct their dependency. As originally filed, claims 12 and 13 referred to a method described in claim 11, but claim 11 is not directed to a method. As amended above, claims 12 and 13 now refer to claim 1, which is directed to a method.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicants hereby petition for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee, except for the Issue Fee, for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Date: April 4, 2002

**APPENDIX**  
**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**The claims are amended as follows:**

12. (Amended) A graphite powder which is prepared according to the method as described in claim [11] 1, wherein an interlayer distance ( $C_0$ ) in a C-axis direction in crystal is 6.730 Å or less.

13. (Amended) A graphite powder which is prepared according to the method as described in claim [11] 1, and wherein the interlayer distance ( $C_0$ ) in a C-axis direction in crystal is 6.725 Å or less.